CLEAN VERSIONS OF CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A composition comprising a bioactive compound that increases a rate of fermentation of a microorganism, wherein the bioactive compound binds to a thaumatin-like protein.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the bioactive compound is prepared from a plant.

3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the plant is a *poaceae.*

4. The composition of claim 2 wherein the plant is *Hordeum vulgare.*

5. The composition of claim 3 wherein the plant is extracted using a protocol comprising at least one of a step of malting, a step of mashing, a step of anion exchange chromatography, and a step of ultra-filtration.

6. The composition of claim 3 wherein the plant is extracted using a protocol comprising at least one of a step of extraction of a barley preparation in a NaCl solution, and ethanol extraction.

7. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a tocol.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the bioactive compound is synthetic.

9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the bioactive compound has a molecular weight of no more than 1000Da and has an UV absorption maximum of about 260nm.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the fermentation comprises utilization of a saccharide.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the microorganism is a yeast.

12. A composition comprising:

a plant seed extract, wherein the plant seed is malted and the extract is prepared from the malted plant seed using a protocol that includes an aqueous extraction step; and

wherein the extract increases a rate of fermentation in a microorganism when the extract is presented to the microorganism at a concentration effective to increase the rate of fermentation.

13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the plant seed is a *Hordeum vulgare* seed.

14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the malting is performed at a temperature between 30°C and 65°C.

15. The composition of claim 12 wherein the extraction step includes extraction with an aqueous buffer.

16. The composition of claim 12 wherein the extract has a molecular weight of no more than 1000 Da and has a UV absorption maximum at about 260nm.